

CEOS IDN

Newsletter

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W G I S S 2 7

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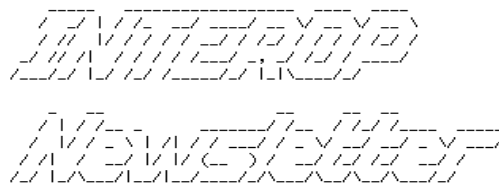
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(1) George Percivall (2) Bernhard Buckl, (3) Ben Burford, (4) Gerhard Triebnig, (5) Richard Goebel, (6) Yonsook Enloe, (7) Ken Lambert, (8) Brian Thomas, (9) Doug O'Brien; (10) Osamu Ochiai; (11) Luigi Fusco; (12) Hartwig Schroeder; (13) Kohei Arai; (14) Mick Wilson; (15) **Paul Kopp**; (16) ?; (17) Terry Fisher; (18) ?; (19) George Mikowski; (20) George Saxton; (21) Lola Olsen; (22) Walter Dillon; (23) Shin-ichi Sobue; (24) ?; (25) Ludwig Moeller

IDN Newsletter Documents the 1997 Interoperability Subgroup Meeting in Toulouse



Number 2 *** INTEROP NEWSLETTER *** May 1997

IDN Master Directory Software Technical Discussion

At the CEOS IDN Splinter Session and Access Subgroup meetings (Toulouse, France April 1997), Ken Lambert (NASA/GCMD/HSTX) gave a technical discussion on the current status and future direction of the IDN Master Directory (MD) software.

An overhead was presented that diagrammed the information flow and high level system architecture of the MD software. This diagram has not changed since the MD5 release in October 1996. The underlying software, however, will be enhanced and includes new features for the MD6 release.



WGISS-26 in Boulder, CO

September 22-26, 2008

Hosting WGISS-26

By Dave Clark, NOAA



Hosting the WGISS-26 was quite a challenge. Initially, it began with planning only for the CEOS/WGISS meeting in Boulder that week. The GEO ADC thought that a meeting at the same time in Boulder could be good to encourage some interaction with WGISS (which it did very well I might add). Then, as other GEO committees heard about the gathering in Boulder, there were decisions made to have other GEO committees meet at the same time. Fortunately I was only tasked to coordinate the WGISS meeting. The GEO meetings were coordinated on behalf of IEEE by Dr. Siri Jodha Singh Khalsa from the University of Colorado's National Snow and Ice Data Center. Siri Jodha did a great job in juggling all aspects of the GEO and WGISS meetings. Because of the hard work and good communications among NOAA, UCAR, and the University of Colorado, the meeting proved to be very successful for WGISS and the GEO committees.

Surrounded by mountains, Michelle Piepgrass, CEOS WGISS Executive Secretariat (left), parle avec Lyndon Oleson (USGS), while Yonsook Enloe stands by.



WGISS Chair, Martha Maiden (far right), enjoys a post-meeting conversation with WGISS attendees (from left to right) Pakorn Apaphant, *GISTDA*; Liping Di, *George Mason University*; Ken McDonald, *NOAA*; Dewayne Cecil, *NASA*; Mike Tanner *GEO Secretariat*; and G. Bryan Killough, *NASA*.

WGISS-27 Meeting Agenda for Thursday Morning, May 14, 2009

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By Karen Moe, NASA

A well-planned agenda, with specific meeting goals and expected outcomes for WGISS-27, has been established. The goals and outcomes include:

- (1) Initiate focus on security issues and strategies for GEOSS (plenary speaker/session followed by WGISS inputs on security will take place during the subgroup sessions).
- (2) Analyze WGISS task DA-09-01b on metadata harmonization and specific project activities that WGISS can perform to provide feedback to the GEOSS Initial Operating Capability.
- (3) Review WGISS tasks and identify prototypes for dry run demos at September 2009 WGISS meeting.
- (4) Identify key WGISS contributions to the November 2009 GEO meeting.
- (5) Draft updated list of WGISS tasks for 2010.

09:00 New Project: Wenchuan Earthquake Response – 90 min, Lorant Czarán, Pakorn Apaphant

Status & progress report on GEO 2009-2011 Task DI-06-09:
Use of Satellites for Risk Management
Draft working process model to supply near-RT data for disaster response
(Model makes use of Grid and web service technology)
WGISS Findings – Best Practices, Security
Recommendations for WGISS

10:30 Break

10:45 International Directory Network (IDN) Interest Group – Lola Olsen

- **IDN Progress Report**
- **Climate Diagnostics Portal Project status**
- **WGISS Findings – Best Practices, Security**
- **Recommendations for WGISS**

11:30 Global Datasets IG – 45 min, Lorant Czarán, Wyn Cudlip
Status & progress report on GEO 2009-2011, Task DA-09-03d: Global DEM
WGISS Findings – Best Practices, Security
Recommendations for WGISS

12:15 Data Integration and Analysis – 45 min, Prof. Koike
Status & progress report on GEO 2009-2011 Task DA-07-06: Data and
Integration Analysis System
WGISS Findings – Best Practices, Security
Recommendations for WG

CEOS Climate Diagnostic Portal Goes Public at GEO-V Plenary Sessions

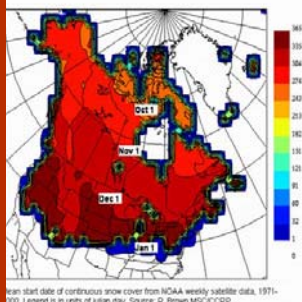
By Michael Morahan, CEOS IDN

The Palace of the Parliament



2008. The Palace was designed and nearly completed during the Ceaușescu regime. Many of the Romanian people call it the People's House (Casa Poporului). The conference was hosted by the Romanian Space Agency (ROSA). The GEO-V Plenary Sessions were held in the I.C. Bratianu Room, while the GEO-V Exhibition was held in the Unirii Room.

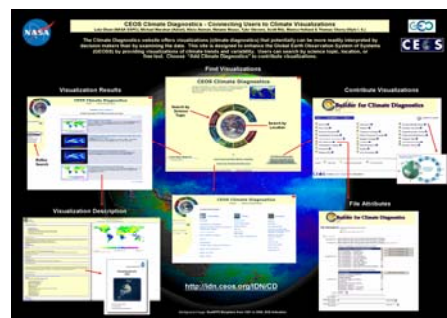
During the GEO-V Plenary Sessions the new CEOS Climate Diagnostic website (<http://idn.ceos.org/CD>) was demonstrated to the representatives.



The web interface was created through the International Directory Network for the broader science community for global and regional decision-makers to access a comprehensive source of visualization, to assist in decision making. The “diagnostics” are prioritized by their relevance and their appearance in the peer reviewed literature.

This year's conference for the Group on Earth Observations was held in Bucharest, Romania at the Palace of the Parliament, on November 19-20th,

The Climate Diagnostics visualization meta-data builder was also demonstrated to the representatives to show the ease of populating the content. The site was demonstrated to multiple CEOS and GEO representatives from the continents of: Europe, North America, Africa, and Asia. Representatives from EUMETSAT, ESA, NASA, Swiss Meteorological Institute, and others took part in the demonstrations.



Climate Diagnostics site: example of the Visualization Entry

Most of the representatives were impressed with the site's overall goal to offer the user community a fast and easy way to search and access Climate Diagnostic visualizations. The conference was an excellent venue for the attendees to capture their first look at the functionality of this new portal. The representatives supplied valuable feedback, which was communicated to the CEOS Climate Diagnostics developers and content curator for future improvements.



GEOS Exhibition hall

A Climate Diagnostic Visualization: Mean Date of Snow Cover

Status of the Earth Science Data Systems (ESDS) Standards' Process Group (SPG) "Request for Comments": for CEOS IDN Dataset (DIF) and Service (SERF) Standards

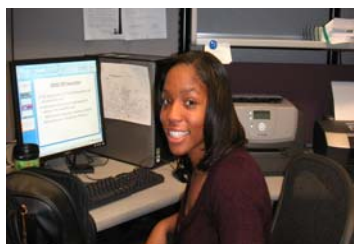
By Tyler Stevens, GCMD, GIS/Services Coordinator

The previous issue of this newsletter acknowledged that the IDN staff participated in the "Request for Comments" (RFC) for the Earth Science Data Systems' (ESDS) Standards Process Group (SPG) to facilitate the development of future data systems and standards. The DIF RFC process was finalized this past winter and received fifteen responses on the usability/suitability of the standard. The ESDS Working Group recommended that the DIF continue to be used and maintained as a catalog standard.

The SERF is on the standards track and continues to receive valuable feedback that will be analyzed by the IDN. Initial comments for the SERF suggest that the Earth Science community (and even the overall geospatial community) is far from achieving consensus on implementing service metadata and service discovery services.

To view the DIF recommendation document in its entirety, please visit:

<http://www.esdswg.org/spg/rfc/esds-rfc-012/dif-rfc-final-recommendation/>



Folami Duncan

We recently welcomed new interns, Folami Duncan and Cecilia Nelson. As a part of the work-study program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, MD, Folami and Cecilia attend school in the morning and work at the Goddard Space Flight Center in the afternoon. Working together with the team, they contribute to the GCMD by updating science keyword definitions, adding conferences to the calendar, editing metadata

Welcoming Our Two New High School Interns: Folami Duncan and Cecilia Nelson

By Lola Olsen

files, and assisting with other tasks that need to be completed. More recently they have become the designers for the IDN Newsletter (Chrissy Chiddo, our previous designer, has graduated from college and is now teaching art.) Not only is it great to have fresh new minds on board, but it is also amazing to watch these two work as "smartly" as they do.



Cecilia Nelson

La Découverte de Toulouse

By Paul Kopp, CNES, Host of Upcoming WGISS-27



Garonne and the Jacobins

Twelve years ago, CNES, hosted the CEOS Subgroup meeting in Toulouse. Welcome back to those who will be returning for the CEOS WGISS meeting.

Toulouse is located in the Southwest of France, in a region called “Midi-Pyrénées”. Midi-Pyrénées is so called because it already has a flavor of the French “Midi” and it is bordered by the Pyrenees, a high mountain range bordering Spain.

Toulouse is a daughter of water. Ca 2,500 years ago, a Celtic tribe, the “Volques Tectosages”, settled the right bank of the Garonne river major Roman city. The “decumanus” (E-W street) and founded the future “Tolosa”, at a place where they could ford the river. This place still exists and is called “the Bazacle”. The settlement extended from there, and at the beginning of the Christian era, it became a major Roman city. The “decumanus” (E-W street) and “cardo” (N-S street) still show through the modern town planning. A theater with more than 10,000 seats existed close to their intersections. While only a few Roman monuments crossed the centuries (amphitheater, outer walls), ruins of a Roman villa can still be admired at Montmaurin, a village 60 km South. The villa encompassed more than 200 rooms. In Toulouse, the Saint Raymond museum holds many accounts of the Roman period. Another and very tangible account of this period: when drinking a glass of Gail-lac wine, remember that this wine, growing in the vicinity of Toulouse, was introduced almost 2,000 years ago in the region by the Romans.

Toulouse is also a city of the Middle Ages. After the collapse of the Roman empire, for a

short time it became the capital city of the Visigoth Kingdom. A wall of King Alaric’s palace has been recently discovered under the basement of a church and the Daurade, a basilica raised during the XVIIIth century takes its name, meaning the “golden basilica”, from the gold that covered the walls of the former Visigoth kings’ private chapel. Later, owned by a dynasty of earls (Raymond) until the XIIIth century, Toulouse was a main step on one of the pilgrimage ways to Saint James (Spain). The marvelous Saint Sernin basilica is the greatest Romanesque style church ever raised because it was intended to shelter for a while the many pilgrims on their long way to Saint James. Saint Sernin is also famous for its treasure-house.

The Middle Ages in Toulouse were the time of “courtly love”, rendered by the troubadours through poems and songs in Occitan language. Occitan was the language spoken at that time in the region (“Oc” means “yes”, and the Occitan name of Toulouse is “Tolosa”). When visiting the Saint Etienne cathedral, please think of Folquet de Marselha. Before being a bishop in Toulouse, he was a troubadour. Living during the XIIIth century, he was unfortunately the contemporary of the “Crusade of the Albigensians”, which were aimed at the eradication of Catharism by French knights. Albigensians were defeated and the earldom of incorporated into the French kingdom. Their defeat was the end of the Occitan civilization, but a new start for Toulouse with the foundation of the university by the Dominicans (preaching friars), the raising of major churches and monasteries (the “Jacobins” with the grave of Saint Thomas of Aquinas and with its unique pillar resembling a palm tree).

The Renaissance was the “Grand Siècle” for Toulouse. At that time, the cultivation of *isatis tinctoris* began in the Lauragais, a farming area East from Toulouse.



Hotel De'Assezat
Toulouse's Renaissance
Mansion

Isatis tinctoris is a plant of the same family as cabbage or mustard and is also called “pastel”. After a complex chemical process *isatis tinctoris* provides a dye holding a unique blue (“Blue of the Lauragais”). Very popular and very expensive, pastel made some inhabitants of the city (the bourgeois) extremely rich. They built imposing private mansions, each with a tower of a height indicative of the owner’s wealth. The pink colored bricks used in their construction earned the city the names “la ville rose” (the pink city). The most prominent of the bourgeois became “capitouls” (the rulers of the city meeting at the Capitole, which is the name given to the city hall).

In the XVIIth century, when Louis the XIVth was king of France, the digging of the “Canal du Midi”, began linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean. This was Baron de Riquet’s great work.

He managed to bring the water that is needed for the canal from the Montagne Noire (the Black Hills, North-West), a complicated task which could never be achieved before him (already the Romans were dreaming of the canal).

The digging required more than 10,000 workers. Besides being an architect of genius, Riquet was also well ahead of his time: he invented holidays and Health Services for his workers. The canal is still in use, but now only for tourism. You can rent a barge and sail on the canal, slowly discovering, lock after lock, the very nice scenery between Toulouse and the Mediterranean. The journey takes about ten days.

You can enjoy Toulouse by simply walking along its ancient streets (pedestrians now have priority over cars) and taking a breath of this delightful city.

The Lautrec Museum of Toulouse



Toulouse: The “Pink City”

By Folami Duncan



Le Capitole, a popular Tourist attraction.

Known as La Ville Rose (The Pink City) for its distinctive brick architecture, the city of Toulouse offers a lively atmosphere, small town spirit, and pleasant weather. It's not surprising that Toulouse has been chosen as the location for the upcoming WGISS meeting on May 11-15, 2009.

Located in southern France, Toulouse is the country's fourth largest city. Although Toulouse is rather large, it possesses a small town feel, while still providing its inhabitants with everything a big city has to offer. Toulouse is the hub of France's aerospace industry. The city is home to Airbus, Galileo Positioning Systems and CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales). Toulouse is also a college town and is home to France's 2nd most popular university, the University of Toulouse

Because of its rich cultural heritage, history, and reasonable prices, Toulouse is an attractive tourist destination. Considering the city's ideal climate, the weather will probably be pleasant. Toulouse's climate is moderate with mild winters, long hot summers, and lots of sun in the fall. While exploring the city, you should visit some of the well known cultural attractions such as Le Capitole, **Basilique St-Sernin**, **Cathédrale St-Étienne**, **Jacobin Convent**, and **Musée des Augustins**. After visiting the attractions, consider enjoying one of Toulouse's popular eateries such as Le Florida, Le

Mayombe, Emile, or Le Bon Vivre (the Good Life).

While visiting Toulouse, consider attending a rugby game. The city is home to the highly respected rugby union team, Stade Toulousain. The team has been French Champions 17 times and 3 time Heineken Cup winners. Aside from rugby, soccer is also a popular sport in Toulouse.



Rugby game, Montpellier vs. Toulouse

During your visit, remember you are only one hour from Madrid and Paris and one hour and 20 minutes from London. All 3 destinations can be reached via TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse), which is France's high speed rail service.



TGV, France's high speed train

*French Cuisine:
Le foie gras
(duck liver
pate)*



“Getting By” in French

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By Melanie Meaux, IDN Ocean/Polar Science Coordinator

In today’s complex multinational and multi-lingual world, the need to communicate in a foreign language is increasing. Learning a language often includes discovering a different culture and way of life. Just walking along the ancient streets of Toulouse, you can explore its local gastronomy - *foie gras* (duck liver pâté), *salade de chevre chaud* (toasted goat cheese), *magret de canard* (duck steaklet), *saucisse de Toulouse* (Toulouse sausage), and *cassoulet*. With the multitude of activities from dancing,

attending conferences, playing *Pétanque* or taking a riverboat cruise at sunset, in Toulouse (i.e., “*la ville rose*”) there is always

something happening. Being a native French speaker, I’ll share a few tips on the local tongue, to use when out dining, shopping and/or communicating about science at the upcoming CEOS WGISS meeting.



Parlez-vous Français??

Bonjour!	Hello!
S’il vous plaît	Please
Excusez-moi	Excuse me
C’est...	It is...
Comment?	Pardon?
La rue	The street
C’est combien?	How much is it?
L’addition s’il vous plaît!	Check please!
Je voudrais...	I would like...
C’est où?	Where is it?
Vous allez où?	Where are you going?
Vous venez d’où?	Where are you from?
Il fait quel temps?	What’s the weather like?
Vous vous appelez comment?	What’s your name?
Je m’appelle...	My name is...
À quelle heure?	At what time?
Au revoir!	Goodbye
La sortie	Exit
Donnée scientifique	Scientific data
Metadonnée	Metadata
Site Internet	Website